



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE SERVICES
1500 Jefferson, Olympia, WA 98504

WASHINGTON STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL
Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: January 15, 2015
Location: DES Building, Rm. 2320
Olympia, Washington

Legislative Committee Members Present: Mark Kulaas, Chair; Steve Simpson, Vice Chair; Rod Bault; Dave Kokot

Legislative Committee Members Absent: Dave DeWitte, Sandra Romero

Visitors Present: Leanne Guier, Bob Eugene, Jan Himebaugh

Staff Present: Tim Nogler, Joanne McCaughan, Krista Braaksma

CALL TO ORDER

Mark Kulaas, Legislative Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m. Everyone was welcomed.

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda review was skipped in the interest of time.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Bills of Interest

Tim Nogler reported on the new bills introduced so far this session, which are listed on the tracking log posted on the website.

HB 1234/SB 5183 – Building Permit Fees

Tim noted this was the Council's fee increase bill. Council member Tana Senn sponsored the bill in the House and Karen Kaiser sponsored the Senate companion. This bill increases the fee, from \$4.50 to \$5.50 for residential construction and from \$4.50 to \$10.00 for non-residential, to

support the Council's work. It is expected to get a hearing in the House but the Senate has stated they will not be hearing bills associated with a fee increase.

HB 1011 – Climate Zones

Tim noted there was a hearing on this bill on Monday. He testified that the Council had supported this change in the energy code to put all of the state under the same climate zone, which is consistent with the bill. It is on the schedule for possible executive session today.

HB 1123– Single-Family Residential Buildings

This is very similar to a bill from last session. The bill would prohibit the Council from adopting any requirements for minimum room size under the IRC. Last year, the Council testified that the model code process was addressing the issue. The current IRC has reduced the minimum size for habitable rooms from 120 square feet to 70 square feet. Mark Kulaas said that jurisdictions would have difficulty with this bill. Regulating the size of structures is one of the way they, especially counties, zone against single wide mobile homes on sites. Dave Kokot stated he felt the model code should stand. Rod Bault said the bill was being referred to as the mother-in-law bill. The Committee determined they should take a neutral position on the bill for now.

SB 5139 – Buildings Four or More Stories

This bill addresses a provision under RCW 19.27.060 which gives jurisdictions the ability to exempt buildings four or more stories with a business occupancy from the building code. It dates back to the early 1980's. There was a hearing on it today. WABO testified that it provided flexibility for the jurisdictions. The mechanical contractors, plumbers and pipefitters testified they needed consistency across the state. This was in the code to address office buildings when the state code was first adopted, allowing jurisdictions to keep any codes they had in place at that time. Today everyone adopts the IBC for consistency across the state and local jurisdictions can adopt additional amendments. Senator Roach wondered why WABO was against having a consistent code, and directed WABO and the industry to get together to work something out. The Committee opted to not take a position at this time.

SB 5185 – Six-Year Cycle

Tim noted this bill did not have a hearing scheduled yet. Senator Benton has re-introduced a bill that directs the Council to go to a six-year cycle for adoption of the building code. Dave Kokot noted the bill includes the Energy Code this session. That would have a great impact on achieving the efficiency goals; each new edition would need to make really big improvements to achieve the statutory goals. Steve Simpson felt it would be problematic to go six years without adopting technical improvements and innovations as they came. A lot of products and materials can come out in six years. Both Dave and Steve advocated opposing the bill. Mark Kulaas suggested taking no position now, but perhaps putting together a list of concerns including training opportunities, difficulty achieving the energy code goals, and lagging behind the nation and the industry. The Committee concurred. Tim said staff can put together a statement in anticipation of a hearing.

HB 1153 – Lumber Grading

This bill creates a program for grading native lumber through Labor and Industries, but doesn't really affect the Council's process.

HB 1100 – Appliance Efficiency

This is similar to bills we've seen before and addresses efficiency standards for appliances. This doesn't really affect the Council's process either. Krista noted that one of the appliances was heat pump water chillers and, if passed, it may warrant inclusion in the energy code.

HB 1201/1203/1209 – Regulatory Reform/Rulemaking bills

The remaining three bills have to do with the general rulemaking process and would affect all agency rulemaking, not just the Council. Dave Kokot expressed concerns that 1203 specifically, could have great impact on the Council. It would seem to eliminate the ability to adopt emergency rules if all agency rulemaking must be ratified by the legislature. He felt the bill would be crippling to the role the Council performs.

Legislative Hearings

Tim noted that the hearings on the schedule for next week were on two bills that don't directly affect the Council; the lumber grading bill (1153) and the appliance efficiency bill (1100).

Mark Kulaas stated that a hearing just came up on the fee bill on Wednesday, January 21 at 8 a.m. Tim stated he would attend the hearing and invited others to join him. Mark, Dave and Steve all said they had other obligations that day.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the meeting time for future meetings. It was determined that the meeting be held next Thursday at 11:00 a.m. and a follow-up discussion be held at that meeting to see if the new time would work for people.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.